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Agenda items 54 (c), 58 and 71

**Sustainable development: International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction****Eradication of poverty and other development issues**

**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian
and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations,
including special economic assistance**

**Letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent
Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Presidential Decree declaring a state of disaster in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region of the Republic of Nicaragua in response to the emergency situation caused by Hurricane Felix (see annex).

At the same time, I should like to express the gratitude of the people and the Government of Nicaragua for the assistance provided by the United Nations through the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system.

In view of the emergency situation, I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have this letter circulated among Member States under agenda items 54 (c), 58 and 71.

(Signed) Maria Rubiales de Chamorro
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decree No. 87-2007

The President of the Republic of Nicaragua,

Considering:

I

That Hurricane Felix, a category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, made landfall in Nicaragua 15 kilometres to the north of Bilwi in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region, particularly close to Barra Sandy Bay, at 5.15 a.m. local time on Tuesday, 4 September 2007, with wind speeds of 250 kilometres per hour and hurricane winds between Cabo Gracias a Dios and Bilwi in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region;

II

That the National Committee for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response, through the Executive Secretariat of the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED), decreed a state of red alert for the North Atlantic Autonomous Region, a state of yellow alert for the South Atlantic Autonomous Region, particularly in the municipalities of Laguna de Perlas and La Desembocadura, and a state of green alert for the rest of the national territory;

III

That the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity has taken necessary action by sending members of the SINAPRED National Committee to the North Atlantic Autonomous Region to take charge of the situation;

IV

That the impact of Hurricane Felix has caused considerable material damage and loss of human life and has endangered people and their property;

V

That article 23 of Act No. 337 establishing the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response allows the President of the Republic to declare a state of disaster, at the suggestion of the National Committee or on his own initiative, defined as a public emergency situation caused by an event which endangers persons by affecting their lives, health, assets, work or environment and which requires administrative arrangements, decision-making and availability of extra resources to mitigate and control the effects of the disaster;

By virtue of the powers conferred on him by the Political Constitution,
has enacted the following Decree:

Declaration of a state of disaster in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region

Article 1. In response to the emergency situation, a state of disaster is hereby declared in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region.

Article 2. State ministries and decentralized bodies, within their areas of competence, shall take immediate steps to implement programmes in the territory covered by this declaration that contribute to offsetting the negative effects caused by the collapse of land communications and the destruction of housing and infrastructure and measures to restore basic services for the population, and shall undertake reconstruction efforts.

Article 3. State ministries, with the support of the Caribbean Development Council (CDC), the Nicaraguan Territorial Studies Institute (INETER), the Nicaraguan Institute for Urban and Rural Housing (INVUR), the Nicaraguan Institute for Agricultural Technology (INTA), the Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development (INIFOM), the Emergency Social Investment Fund (FISE) and the Nicaraguan Aqueduct and Sewage Company (ENACAL), with funds allocated under the General Budget Act of the Republic and with support sought and obtained from the international community, shall immediately embark on a rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for the communities affected by flooding due to heavy rainfall and other factors.

Article 4. The regional government and the municipal governments affected shall maintain the Committees for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response in an operational state to ensure that, through coordinated action with the Central Government, appropriate care continues to be provided to evacuated persons who are housed in temporary shelters.

Article 5. The SINAPRED Executive Secretariat, the Civil Defence and specialized bodies shall continue to ensure that search, rescue and recovery efforts are carried out for the affected population.

Article 6. This Decree shall enter into force upon publication in the Official Gazette.

Done in the city of Managua, Government House, on 4 September 2007.

(Signed) Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President of the Republic of Nicaragua